Torrance Public Library Presents

Bird in a Jar





Use sparse materials to explore themes of beauty, desert, survival, and captivity. Each kit contains: a bird, sand, raffia, a metal binder clip, and a jar.

The bird contains a tiny magnet, attach bird to metal clip. This will keep the bird upright. Pour the sand into the jar.





Arrange the raffia. Do you want the bird to sitting in a nest? Or is the bird surrounded by the strands? Put the lid on the jar. Your work of art is complete.



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Story behind the craft



In 1942, every person of Japanese descent on the west coast was rounded up and shipped to one of ten "relocation centers," where they would be held for years under armed guard.

The Civil Liberties Public Education program was created in 1998 to use the incarceration of U.S. citizens of Japanese American ancestry during World War II as a springboard to understanding Californians' civil liberties and the impact of those liberties being usurped.

Delphine Hirasuna's book, The Art of Gaman, showcases arts and crafts made by Japanese Americans in U.S. internment camps during World War II. "The internees sought courage and solace in art. What they created is a celebration of the nobility of the human spirit under adversity.

Inspired by the themes of that book, this craft uses sparse materials to craft a bird in a jar, echoing themes of beauty, desert, survival, and captivity.

